Approved For Release 2003/08/08 : CIA-RDP78S01932A000100160018-2

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CIA/OCI/WHIZWH   740912

DATE-TIME GROUP	CITE	MESSAGE REFERENCE NUMBER

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SOURCE REF:		ROUTING	1		4		7		10	
			2		5		8		11	
			3		6		9		12	

TO: IMMEDIATE WHITE HOUSE//SITUATION ROOM FOR MR FAZIO, V

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ITEM NO: (WH-2)   DATE: (CONF) 12 Sept 74

SUBJECT: STATEMENT BY TASS OFFICIAL ON SOVIET INTENTION TO
           RE-ESTABLISH OFFICIAL CONTACTS WITH ISRAEL

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A TASS OFFICIAL IN CAIRO SAID YESTERDAY MOSCOW INTENDS TO
RE-ESTABLISH OFFICIAL CONTACTS WITH ISRAEL "SHORTLY," PERHAPS
WHEN THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY OPENS.

THE RUSSIAN SAID HE DID NOT KNOW WHETHER MOSCOW WAS CON-
TEMPLATING RESUMPTION OF FULL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS OR MERELY THE
OPENING OF NON-DIPLOMATIC OFFICES. HE ASSERTED THAT A TASS
CORRESPONDENT HAS BEEN SELECTED TO MAN THE TEL AVIV OFFICE "WHEN
THE TIME COMES."

THE SOVIETS PUT OUT SIMILAR STORIES LAST JUNE WHICH CAME
TO NAUGHT. ALTHOUGH MOSCOW MAY THINK THAT ESTABLISHMENT OF
INFORMAL CONTACTS WITH ISRAEL WOULD BE LESS OFFENSIVE TO THE

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UNIT:
EXT:

State Dept. review completed

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ROUTING	1		4		7		10	
	2		5		8		11	
	3		6		9		12	

ARABS THAN RESUMPTION OF FULL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. IT SEEMS

LIKELY THAT THE CURRENT REPORT IS A TRIAL BALLOON DESIGNED TO

    --PUT THE ARABS ON NOTICE THAT MOSCOW HAS OPTIONS IN THE

MIDDLE EAST PEACE DIALOGUE.

    --SIGNAL TO THE PALESTINIANS THAT MOSCOW BACKS THE RIGHT OF

ISRAEL TO EXIST.

    --PLACATE PRO-ISRAELI SENTIMENT IN THE US

    THE SOVIETS CERTAINLY CONTEMPLATE RESUMPTION OF DIPLOMATIC

RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL WHEN MOVEMENT TOWARD A PEACE SETTLEMENT CAN

BE USED TO JUSTIFY SUCH ACTION TO THE ARABS.

    FOREIGN MINISTER GROMYKO RECENTLY TOLD US AMBASSADOR STOESSEL

THAT, UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES, MOSCOW WAS READY TO CONSIDER

NORMALIZING ITS RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL. BREZHNEV HIMSELF RAISED

THE POSSIBILITY IN A SPEECH LAST JUNE WHEN HE REFERRED TO MOSCOW'S

INTENTION OF NORMALIZING RELATIONS WITH "ALL" STATES OF THE MIDDLE

EAST.

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